

Department of Social and Health Services

**DP Code/Title: PL-AS Increase Kinship Support**  
**Program Level - 010 Children's Administration**

Budget Period: 2007-09 Version: A1 010 - 2007-09 Agency Request Budget

**Recommendation Summary Text:**

This request is for \$5,934,000 and 11.5 FTEs for the 2007-09 Biennium beginning in July 2007 to increase the number of children who are placed with relatives and to provide additional support services to these homes.

**Fiscal Detail:**

**Operating Expenditures**

	<b><u>FY 1</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Overall Funding</b>			
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	2,646,000	2,671,000	5,317,000
001-A General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi	233,000	241,000	474,000
001-C General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa	70,000	73,000	143,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>2,949,000</b>	<b>2,985,000</b>	<b>5,934,000</b>

**Staffing**

	<b><u>FY 1</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Avg</u></b>
<b>Agency FTEs</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>

**Package Description:**

Children's Administration is asking for \$2,949,000 and 10.9 FTEs in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2,985,000 and 12.0 FTEs in Fiscal Year 2009 to increase the number of children who are placed with relatives and provide additional support services to these homes. This resource will be used to conduct more comprehensive searches for relatives, complete relative home studies and provide support services to children placed with relatives.

Specifically, we are requesting:

- \$78,000 for data-base searches
- \$1,980,000 for 11.5 biennial FTEs
- \$3,876,000 for purchased support services

CA has found that dedicating staff to relative/kin searches results in the identification of more kin and more involvement by fathers and paternal relatives. Relatives play an essential role in helping to meet the needs of children who are unable to live with their parents. Additional time, skill and effort are needed to interview, assess, and plan for involvement of relatives in the child's life. Relatives may be willing and able to provide a temporary or permanent home. Relatives may also be willing and able to provide transportation in support of education, sports, sibling visits and ongoing extended family connections. Children will feel less isolation, a stronger sense of identity, and more confident and hopeful in their future. This results in better outcomes for children including more stable placements, less re-entry into care and less maltreatment in care.

CA has been increasing the placement of children in relative and kinship care. Continuing this trend is in the best interest of the children we serve. Placements with relatives are currently at 38%. With additional support, we believe it is possible to increase this rate to 42% in Fiscal Year 2008 and to 46% in Fiscal Year 2009. The additional funding for database searches and FTEs will improve our ability to find, recruit and assess relatives.

Dependent children in relative placement have not historically received the same level of support as dependent children in unlicensed homes. Contracted funds in the amount of \$3,876,000 will provide additional services to the current level of children in relative care. If more children are placed with relatives rather than licensed foster care in the future, the funding which currently supports those placements will be available to support placement with relatives. New funds are needed to raise the level of support for the current level of relative placements. Supporting relative placements provides better permanency and safety outcomes for children which makes it essential to increase access to services for kinship care providers. Funding will provide kinship families access to specific services through additional capacity for contracted

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services. Services to children in relative placements will be individually tailored and often will include child care, respite, after school and summer programs as well as support needed to attend court hearing and staffings.

**Narrative Justification and Impact Statement**

***How contributes to strategic plan:***

This decision package supports the strategies and objectives for the permanency goals and outcomes included in CA's Strategic Plan.

**Permanency**

Goal: Provide stable, nurturing, and permanent placements as quickly as possible for children who are placed into out-of-home care.

Outcome P-1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Outcome P-2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

This decision package supports the Priorities of Government (POG) goal to "Improve the Security of Washington's Vulnerable Children and Adults" and CA's goals under Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) Reporting of Permanency for Children, Child and Family Well Being and Supporting Client Outcomes.

This decision package supports the Child Welfare Services (A012) activity.

***Performance Measure Detail***

**Agency Level**

**Activity: A012 Child Welfare Services (CWS)**

**Incremental Changes**

**FY 1**

**FY 2**

**Outcome Measures**

1113 Percentage of foster children placed with extended family members.

0.00%

0.00%

***Reason for change:***

Relative care provides greater placement stability and safety than out of home care provided by licensed foster parents who are unknown to the child. CA has continually increased the percent of children placed with extended family members from 30% in Fiscal Year 2000, to 33.5% in Fiscal Year 2003, to the current rate of approximately 38%. CA believes that with more comprehensive relative searches more relative placements can be made.

Data indicates that "children in public kinship care are less likely to have multiple placements". (Report to the Congress on Kinship Foster Care, DHHS/ACF, June 2000). Research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2005 further indicates that relative placements maintain healthy connections to the family and "in many cases, kinship caregiving enables sibling groups to remain intact". It also benefits children by providing more "stability in their living situation than they have in a non-kin foster care placement". (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2005) Research on Kinship Foster Care by Rob Geen of the Urban Institute further points out that "children fare better when placed with relatives. Since children are more likely to be familiar with a kin caregiver, many experts suggest that these placements are less traumatic and disruptive for children than placements with non-kin. Children feel 'loved' by their kin caregivers and 'happy' with their living arrangements".

The current foster care system alone is not enough to handle the number of children needing placement. Positions that are solely dedicated to relative search and relative support will help increase placement options as well as permanence and placement stability for children.

***Impact on clients and services:***

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This proposal will have a positive impact on services provided by CA and its clients by identifying specific areas that improve services to children and foster families. CA expects stakeholders will support this package.

***Impact on other state programs:***

None

***Relationship to capital budget:***

Not applicable

***Required changes to existing RCW, WAC, contract, or plan:***

None

***Alternatives explored by agency:***

Relative searches have been conducted by CA staff as part of their workload. As a result, contracting out relative searches would be problematic. Undertaking comprehensive and timely searches as part of a child protection worker's duties is not effective. These staff must focus on the immediate priorities of investigation and child safety. The demands of a busy caseload often do not allow for adequate time to complete thorough relative searches.

***Budget impacts in future biennia:***

12.0 annual FTEs will be needed to maintain the Fiscal Year 2009 level of homestudies. If relative placements continue to grow, the number of FTEs needed to conduct home studies will also grow.

***Distinction between one-time and ongoing costs:***

Startup equipment costs for new FTEs are one-time costs. All other costs are ongoing.

***Effects of non-funding:***

The effects of not funding this proposal are as follows:

- increased re-entry rate
- lack of placement stability and permanency
- maintaining current level of relative placements

***Expenditure Calculations and Assumptions:***

See attached CA PL-AS Increase Kinship Support.xls

The federal Deficit Reduction Act, passed in February 2006, created new limitations for Targeted Case Management (TCM) which were effective January 1, 2006. Federal rules have not been published so the precise effect of the new law is not clear. This proposal assumes that CA will be able to claim TCM funds in the 2007-09 Biennium, but if that is not the case CA will require GF-State where TCM is assumed.

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<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Overall Funding</b>			
A Salaries And Wages	546,000	600,000	1,146,000
B Employee Benefits	153,000	180,000	333,000
E Goods And Services	131,000	144,000	275,000
G Travel	44,000	48,000	92,000
J Capital Outlays	87,000	24,000	111,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	1,977,000	1,977,000	3,954,000
T Intra-Agency Reimbursements	11,000	12,000	23,000
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>2,949,000</b>	<b>2,985,000</b>	<b>5,934,000</b>

**DSHS Source Code Detail**

<u>Overall Funding</u>	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Fund 001-1, General Fund - Basic Account-State</b>			
<b><u>Sources Title</u></b>			
0011 General Fund State	2,646,000	2,671,000	5,317,000
<b>Total for Fund 001-1</b>	<b>2,646,000</b>	<b>2,671,000</b>	<b>5,317,000</b>
<b>Fund 001-A, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi</b>			
<b><u>Sources Title</u></b>			
658L Title IV-E-Foster Care (50%)	233,000	241,000	474,000
<b>Total for Fund 001-A</b>	<b>233,000</b>	<b>241,000</b>	<b>474,000</b>
<b>Fund 001-C, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa</b>			
<b><u>Sources Title</u></b>			
19TA Title XIX Assistance (FMAP)	70,000	73,000	143,000
<b>Total for Fund 001-C</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>143,000</b>
<b>Total Overall Funding</b>	<b>2,949,000</b>	<b>2,985,000</b>	<b>5,934,000</b>

**2007-09 Biennium  
PL-AS Increase Kinship Support**

	FY 2008		FY 2009		Total	
	FTEs	\$	FTEs	\$	FTEs	\$
Database Searches		39,000		39,000	-	78,000
Relative Home Studies	10.9	972,000	12.0	1,008,000	11.5	1,980,000
Purchased Support Services		1,938,000		1,938,000	-	3,876,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>2,949,000</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>2,985,000</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>5,934,000</b>

**2007-09 Biennium**  
**PL-AS Increase Kinship Support**

**Database Searches**

Number of children  
placed monthly                      650

Cost per search                      \$5.00

Annual Cost                      \$    39,000

2007-09 Bien Cost                \$    78,000

**2007-09 Biennium  
PL-AS Increase Kinship Support**

	FY 2008			FY 2009		
	# of Placements	Staff hours used for Home Study	Total hours	# of Placements	Staff hours used for Home Study	Total hours
Relative Placements with length of stay 30 -60 days	105	4	421.1	116	4	463.2
Relative Placements over 60 Days	1,355			1,491		
Est Placements that end between 60 and 120 days	451	8	3,610.3	496	8	3,971.3
Est Placements that end after 120 days	904	16	14,462.7	994	16	15,909.0
<b>TOTAL</b>			18,494.0			20,343.4
Available staff hours per FTE			1,694.5			1,694.5
<b>FTEs Needed</b>			<b>10.9</b>			<b>12.0</b>

FY 08	FY 09	Total
10.9	12.0	11.5 Assumes step K

**Social Worker (SW) 3**

## 2007-09 Biennium PL-AS Increase Kinship Support

### Kinship Purchased Support Services

#### *Assumptions:*

- \* 10% increase determines base amount needed to raise the level of purchased support services for the current level of relative placements
- \* In outlying years, if more children are placed with relatives rather than foster care, services will be purchased using funds which currently support foster care

Relative Placements in June 2006	3,524
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10 % Increase	3,876.4
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Cost per child per year	\$500.00
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Annual Cost	\$ 1,938,000
2007-09 Bien Cost	\$ 3,876,000



**2007-09 Biennium**  
**PL-AS Increase Kinship Support**

2007-09 staffing model

DSHS Staffing Model - Calculation Results Report				
Social Worker 3				
			1st Year	2nd Year
	FTEs		1.0	1.0
	<u>Objects Summary</u>			
	A	Salaries	50,000	50,000
	B	Benefits	14,000	15,000
	E	Goods & Service	12,000	12,000
	J	Equipment	8,000	2,000
G	Travel	4,000	4,000	
T	ISSD:TZ	1,000	1,000	
Total Objects		89,000	84,000	
<u>Funds Summary</u>				
Fund	DSHS Source	% of Total		
001-1	0011	70.00%	63,000	59,000
0	0	0.00%	0	0
001-C	19TA	7.00%	6,000	6,000
0	Title IV-E	23.00%	20,000	19,000
0	0	0.00%	0	0
0	0	0.00%	0	0
Total Funds			89,000	84,000